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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/090,739	03/06/2002	Thomas Layne Bascom	12402	5257

27082 7590 12/20/2004

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EXAMINER

BURGE, LONDRA C

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2178

DATE MAILED: 12/20/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/090,739

Applicant(s)

BASCOM ET AL.

Examiner

Londra C Burge

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 August 2000.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-32 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-32 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 3/6/2002.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to communications: Original Application and IDS filed 3/6/2002.
2. Claims 1-32 are pending and claims 1 and 28 are independent claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. **The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:**

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. **Claims 1, 2, 4, 6-13, 16-22, 24-26 and 28-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Goerz, Jr. et al. (herein after Goerz) U.S. Patent Pub No. 2002/0065671 filed 1/30/2001, in view of Sandra E. Eddy et al. (herein after Eddy), "Teach Yourself XML" IDG Books Worldwide, Inc., Foster City, CA 1999.**

In regard to independent claim 1, Goerz discloses *creating one or more link directories for storing link relationships between document objects located on the network* (Goerz Para 0071); *enabling users of the network to create link relationships between a first document object located on the network and a second document object located on the network* (Goerz Para 0005-0007); *and managing presentation to a user of link relationships between the document objects located on the network using the assigned attributes to determine which link relationships are presented to the user and the manner in which the link relationships are presented.* (Goerz Para 0041 and 0058)

Goerz does not specially disclose *allowing users to assign attributes describing the link relationships and the document objects related by the link relationships*. However Eddy discloses allowing a user of the network to create a link relationship between a first document object and a second document object (Page 311, code listing 21-10). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to apply Eddy to Goerz, providing Goerz the benefit of creating link relationships to enable a user to use a link to choose from several locations as taught by Eddy Page 303 paragraph 1.

In regard to dependent claim 2, Goerz discloses *defining one or more link relationship attributes describing the link relationships stored in the one or more link directories* (Goerz Figure 19I); *and assigning one or more link relationship attributes to each link relationship, wherein the one or more assigned link relationship attributes describe the link relationship as determined by the user assigning the link relationship attributes* (Goerz Figure 19I-19K); *and storing the link relationships with the attributes in the one or more link directories located on the network separate from the document objects*. (Goerz Para 0084 and 0085)

In regard to dependent claim 4, Goerz discloses *wherein the method further comprises permitting users of the network to access the one or more link directories* (Goerz Para 0071 and Para 0114 claim 1)

In regard to dependent claims 6 and 29, claims 6 and 29 reflect similar subject matter claimed in claim 2 and is rejected along the same rationale

In regard to dependent claim 7, Goerz discloses *choosing one or more document object attributes associated with the first document object; choosing one or more document object attributes associated with the second document object; and generating a link relationship*

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attribute comprising a relationship between the chosen document object attribute for the first document object and the chosen document object attribute for the second document object. (Goerz Figures 19I-19K and Figure 19M-19P)

In regard to dependent claim 8, Goerz discloses *wherein the step of defining document object attributes further comprises defining one or more subordinate document object attributes associated with one of the document object attributes, wherein the one or more subordinate document object attributes further describe the document object attribute. (Goerz Figure 19I and Para 0095)*

In regard to dependent claim 9, Goerz discloses *wherein the step of defining document object attributes further comprises defining one or more common subordinate document object attributes associated with a plurality of document object attributes. (Goerz Figure 19I and Para 0095)*

In regard to dependent claim 10, Goerz discloses *filtering the retrieved link relationships by one or more of the common subordinate document object attributes; and presenting the retrieved and common subordinate document object attribute filtered link relationships to the user while the user is accessing a document object. (Goerz Para 0047 and 0089)*

In regard to dependent claim 11, Goerz does not specially disclose *wherein the step of defining link relationship attributes further comprises defining one or more subordinate link relationship attributes associated with one of the link relationship attributes, wherein the one or more subordinate link relationship attributes further describe the link relationship attribute. However Eddy discloses allowing a user of the network to create a link relationship between a*

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first document object and a second document object (Page 311, code listing 21-10). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to apply Eddy to Goerz, providing Goerz the benefit of creating link relationships to enable a user to use a link to choose from several locations as taught by Eddy Page 303 paragraph 1.

In regard to dependent claim 12, Goerz discloses *wherein the step of defining link relationship attributes further comprises defining one or more common subordinate link relationship attributes associated with a plurality of link relationship attributes.* (Goerz Figures 19I-19K and Figure 19M-19P)

In regard to dependent claim 13, Goerz discloses *filtering the retrieved link relationships by one or more of the common subordinate link relationship attributes; and presenting the retrieved and common subordinate link relationship attribute filtered link relationships to the user while the user is accessing a document object.* (Goerz Para 0047 and 0089)

In regard to dependent claim 16, Goerz discloses *wherein one of the link relationship attributes identifies the user who created the link relationship.* (Goerz Para 0071 and Figure 17 i.e. login identifies a user)

In regard to dependent claim 17, Goerz discloses *wherein the managing step further comprises presenting to the user link relationships created by an identified user.* (Goerz Para 0042 and 0043) (Goerz Para 0041 and 0058)

In regard to dependent claim 18, Goerz discloses *wherein one of the document object attributes identifies the entity responsible for the document object located on the network to*

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which the document object attribute applies. (Goerz Para 0071) (Goerz Para 0042 and 0043) (Goerz Para 0041 and 0058)

In regard to dependent claim 19, Goerz discloses *wherein the managing step further comprises presenting to the user link references to document objects associated with an identified responsible entity. (Goerz Para 0042 and 0043) (Goerz Para 0041 and 0058)*

In regard to dependent claim 20, Goerz discloses *wherein one of the defined link relationship attributes identifies the entity responsible for one of the document objects. (Goerz Para 0071) (Goerz Para 0042 and 0043) (Goerz Para 0041 and 0058)*

In regard to dependent claim 21, Goerz discloses *wherein the user creating the link relationship is the entity responsible for one of the document objects. (Goerz Para 0071) (Goerz Para 0042 and 0043) (Goerz Para 0041 and 0058)*

In regard to dependent claim 22, Goerz discloses *wherein the managing step further comprises presenting a user of the network accessing a link relationship with the identity of the user creating the link relationship and the identity of the entities responsible for the document objects. (Goerz Para 0071) (Goerz Para 0042 and 0043) (Goerz Para 0041 and 0058)*

In regard to dependent claim 24, Goerz discloses *wherein the allowing step further comprises defining valid data types associated with each link relationship attribute. (Goerz Para 0041-0043)*

In regard to dependent claim 25, Goerz discloses *further comprising validating link relationship attributes assigned by users, the validating comprising matching defined valid data types to values assigned to the link relationship attributes by users. (Goerz Para 0041-0043)*

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In regard to dependent claim 26, Goerz discloses *wherein the managing step further comprises permitting users to specify a value or range of values for a selected attribute used to filter the retrieved link relationships*. (Goerz Para 0047 and 0089)

In regard to independent claim 28, claim 28 reflects similar subject matter claimed in claim 1 and is rejected along the same rationale.

In regard to dependent claim 30, claim 30 reflects similar subject matter claimed in claim 3 and is rejected along the same rationale.

In regard to dependent claim 31, claim 31 reflects similar subject matter claimed in claim 5 and is rejected along the same rationale.

In regard to dependent claim 32, claim 32 reflects similar subject matter claimed in claim 6 and is rejected along the same rationale.

5. **Claims 3, 5, 14, 15, 23 and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Goerz, Jr. et al. (herein after Goerz) in view of Sandra E. Eddy et al. (herein after Eddy) as applied to claim 1 and in further view of LeMole et al. (herein after LeMole) U.S. Patent No. 6,009,410 filed 10/16/1997.**

In regard to dependent claim 3, Goerz does not specifically disclose *creating one or more user profiles, wherein the one or more user profiles specify one or more link directories and one or more attributes relevant to a user's interests; retrieving from the one or more link directories one or more link relationships between a current document object accessed by the user and other document objects located on the network; applying the one or more user profiles as filters against the one or more retrieved link relationships to determine which link*

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relationships to present to the user; and presenting the retrieved and filtered link relationships to the user while the user is accessing a document object. However, LeMole discloses a similar process (LeMole Abstract). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to apply LeMole to Goerz, providing Goerz the benefit of creating user profiles to return links to the user, which are related to their profile and interest.

In regard to dependent claim 5, Goerz discloses *wherein the presenting step comprises ordering the link relationships presented to the user by link directories and by discrete attributes describing the link relationships.* (Goerz Figures 19I-19K and Figure 19M-19P)

In regard to dependent claim 14, Goerz discloses *wherein the managing step further comprises permitting the user to identify link directories containing link relationships to the document object the user is accessing.* (Goerz Para 0042 and 0043)

In regard to dependent claim 15, Goerz discloses *wherein the managing step further comprises permitting the user to identify link relationships assigned a particular attribute.* (Goerz Para 0042 and 0043) (Goerz Para 0047 and 0089)

In regard to dependent claim 23, Goerz discloses *wherein the step of presenting the retrieved and filtered link relationships is restricted to authorized users.* (Goerz Para 0071) (Goerz Para 0042 and 0043) (Goerz Para 0041 and 0058)

In regard to dependent claim 27, Goerz does not specifically disclose *wherein the link relationship created by the user in the enabling step comprises a link reference including a network address containing a bookmark.* However, LeMole discloses bookmarks that are used (LeMole Col 4 Lines 15-25 and Col 6 Lines 51-60). It would have been obvious to one of

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ordinary skill in the art to apply LeMole to Goerz, providing Goerz the benefit of using bookmark so the user can keep track of the links.

Conclusion

6. **The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.**

Borman et al.	U.S. Patent No. 6,226,655	issued	5/1/2001
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Li	U.S. Patent No. 6,725,227 B1	issued	4/20/2004
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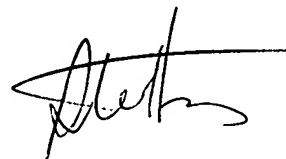
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Londra C Burge whose telephone number is (571) 272-4122.

The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30am to 5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Stephen Hong can be reached on (571) 272-4124. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Londra C Burge
12/3/04



**STEPHEN S. HONG
PRIMARY EXAMINER**

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